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Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – August 2015

Area prices down 0.1 percent over the two months; up 0.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta inched down 0.1 percent over the July-August pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index was down 5.2 percent over the two months. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.6 percent and the food index inched up 0.1 percent during the July-August pricing period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes July reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 0.6 percent. Annual increases were registered in a number of categories, notably shelter, medical care, and other goods and services. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.5 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, August 2012–August 2015

Percent change



Aug'12 Nov'12 Feb'13 May'13 Aug'13 Nov'13 Feb'14 May'14 Aug'14 Nov'14 Feb'15 May'15 Aug'15

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent during the July-August pricing period. Prices for food at home and food away from home each inched up 0.1 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the food index rose 2.5 percent, reflecting price increases for both food away from home (5.6 percent) and food at home (0.6 percent).

Energy

The energy index declined 5.2 percent over the two-month pricing period, reflecting a 10.6 percent decrease in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity declined 0.4 percent, while utility (piped) gas service prices edged up 0.3 percent since June.

Over the year, the energy index fell 13.5 percent. Within the energy group, prices for motor fuel dropped 24.8 percent and utility (piped) gas service prices declined 6.4 percent. Since August 2014, prices for electricity rose 0.8 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent during the July-August pricing period. Several indexes rose over the two-month pricing period including apparel (6.7 percent), shelter (0.6 percent) and education and communication (1.7 percent).

From August 2014 to August 2015, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.5 percent, reflecting higher prices for several categories, most notably shelter (4.0 percent), medical care (3.5 percent), and other goods and services (6.9 percent).

Table A. Atlanta metropolitan area CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3
April	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	-0.5
June	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6
August	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.6
October	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-	-
December	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	3.0	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9	-	-

The Consumer Price Index for September 2015 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, October 15, 2015.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	225.152	-	225.027	0.6	-0.1	-
All items (1967=100)	678.989	-	678.614	-	-	-
Food and beverages	250.635	-	251.045	2.3	0.2	-
Food	262.054	-	262.336	2.5	0.1	-
Food at home	252.692	251.536	252.933	0.6	0.1	0.6
Food away from home.....	277.890	-	278.242	5.6	0.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	148.775	-	150.308	-0.2	1.0	-
Housing	220.778	-	221.339	2.7	0.3	-
Shelter	232.726	233.232	234.063	4.0	0.6	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	234.220	235.384	237.216	5.5	1.3	0.8
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	228.015	228.682	229.619	3.8	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	228.015	228.682	229.619	3.8	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	321.766	-	321.348	-0.5	-0.1	-
Household energy	287.579	286.567	286.893	-1.0	-0.2	0.1
Energy Services ⁽¹⁾	286.942	285.956	286.157	-0.9	-0.3	0.1
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	273.452	272.243	272.243	0.8	-0.4	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	251.390	251.390	252.181	-6.4	0.3	0.3
Household furnishings and operations	126.237	-	124.014	-2.0	-1.8	-
Apparel	134.595	-	143.610	3.7	6.7	-
Transportation	200.453	-	193.104	-9.3	-3.7	-
Private transportation	200.414	-	193.117	-9.4	-3.6	-
Motor fuel	252.170	242.030	225.391	-24.8	-10.6	-6.9
Gasoline (all types).....	250.588	240.465	223.935	-24.7	-10.6	-6.9
Unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	247.450	236.773	220.036	-25.3	-11.1	-7.1
Unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	302.726	292.687	274.113	-23.5	-9.5	-6.3
Unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	254.737	250.293	237.127	-20.7	-6.9	-5.3
Medical Care	410.556	-	411.374	3.5	0.2	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	87.296	-	87.485	1.8	0.2	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	132.906	-	135.112	0.2	1.7	-
Other goods and services	362.413	-	364.669	6.9	0.6	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	225.152	-	225.027	0.6	-0.1	-
Commodities	181.628	-	179.715	-3.2	-1.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	149.674	-	147.030	-6.2	-1.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	187.500	-	183.002	-8.8	-2.4	-
Durables	111.483	-	110.568	-2.3	-0.8	-
Services.....	267.278	-	268.563	2.8	0.5	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	215.079	-	214.917	0.4	-0.1	-
All items less shelter.....	227.014	-	226.149	-1.1	-0.4	-
Commodities less food	149.308	-	146.814	-6.0	-1.7	-
Nondurables	215.496	-	213.058	-3.5	-1.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	183.447	-	179.400	-8.3	-2.2	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	323.894	-	325.106	1.3	0.4	-
Services less medical care services.....	251.453	-	252.790	2.9	0.5	-
Energy	245.040	239.840	232.182	-13.5	-5.2	-3.2
All items less energy	222.758	-	223.996	2.5	0.6	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
All items less food and energy	217.050	-	218.410	2.5	0.6	-

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.